

File 260

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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CONFIDENTIAL

COUNTRY Poland

REPORT

SUBJECT Demographic Data

DATE DISTR. 3 November 1955

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REQUIREMENT

PLACE ACQUIRED

This is UNEVALUATED Information

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ARMY review completed.

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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COUNTRY Poland

DATE DISTR. 27 Sept. 1955

SUBJECT Demographic Data

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during 1954 there were
approximately 750 to 800 towns with a total population

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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averaging from 9.5 to 10 million. [] the total population of Poland for the year of 1954 at about 25,500,000 [] it was steadily climbing and would be about 26,000,000 by the end of 1956. []

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[] during 1954 approximately 37 to 40 percent of the population lived in cities and towns and approximately 60 to 63 percent lived in small communities, villages and on farms.

[] estimate of the increase in the number of towns was based both on government administrative reorganizational changes affecting villages and communities and population statistics. [] as late as 1954.

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[] government statistical publications such as the (1) Bulletin Statystyczny (Statistical Bulletin); (2) Monitor Polski (Polish Monitor); (3) Dziennik Ustaw Rzeczypospolitej (Journal of Laws of the Republic of Poland); (4) Maly Rocznik Statystyczny (Concise Statistical Year Book; and (5) Wiadomosci Statystyczne (Statistical News. They were published weekly, bi-monthly, monthly and/or yearly by the Główny Urząd Statystyczny (Central Statistics Bureau) headed by Roman Szulc and distributed to various governmental agencies and banking institutions.

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The Journal of Laws publication frequently contained news of governmental administrative changes, usually naming one or more communities that had been given a town status and had their own administration. Of the cities that had been affected by governmental administrative changes, []

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[] during 1952-53 Siemianowice (N50-18, E19-02) (population of about 35,000) and Chorzow (N50-18, E18-58) (population of about 135,000) were designated as separate cities (wydzielone miasta). Formerly these cities belonged to the county of Stalinogrod (Katowice). Contrariwise, another governmental administrative change, during 1951-52, amalgamated Ochojec (N50-13, E19-00), Piotrowice (N50-13, E18-59) and Welnowiec (N50-17, E19-02), which were formerly independent communities, into the city of Stalinogrod.

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[] there were approximately 200 towns, not 135, which had from 10,000 to 20,000 inhabitants. []

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[] during the post-war period an unknown number of inhabitants moved from farms and villages and small communities to larger towns and cities, seeking employment in industries in order to increase their income and standard of living. [] a considerable number of towns, which numbered approximately 7,000 to 10,000 inhabitants during the prewar period, had approximately 10,000 to 13,000 inhabitants by 1954.

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[] observed the increase of inhabitants in Pszozyna (N49-50, E18-57), which had about 8,000 inhabitants during the prewar period but had about 12,000 inhabitants by 1954. The increase was attributed to the transfer of several factories to this area. In this city, [] new homes were not constructed to accommodate the population increase; rather, the newcomers were crowded into the homes that existed. Consequently, [] with the exception of large industrialized areas, this situation was generally the same in a majority of the towns whose population had increased during the post-war period.

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the statistical data of 60 towns having over 20,000 inhabitants appeared to be correct.

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there were about 60 towns having anywhere from 20,000 to less than 100,000 inhabitants.

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there were about 26 cities and not 16 with more than 100,000 inhabitants.

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Gliwice, Bytom, (Beuthen) (N50-21, E18-58) and Zabrze (Hindenburg) (N50-19, E18-47), which had less than 100,000 inhabitants each before 1940, had about 140,000 and 200,000 inhabitants respectively by 1951-52.

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the following cities at random as having near to or more than 100,000 inhabitants as of 1953 and 1954:

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Warsaw	Czestochowa	Sosnowiec
Radom	Stalinogrod	(N50-18, E19-10)
Krakow	Bytom	Chorzow
Zabrze	Poznan	Gliwice
Wroclaw	Gdansk	Opole
Gdynia	*Jelenia Gora	Szczecin
*Olsztyn	(N50-54, E15-44)	*Elblag
Bydgoszcz	Torun	Bialystok
Kalisz	(N53-02, E18-36)	Lublin
(N51-45, E18-05)	Walbrzych	
Lodz	(N50-46, E16-17)	

* these cities had from about 95,000 to 100,000 inhabitants, whereas the remainder had more than 100,000.

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While in Walbrzych in 1950, many people speaking French in the streets. Subsequent to that time many Poles who had emigrated to France before World War II to work as coal miners and foundry workers had returned to Poland in 1945-1946 and were resettled in Walbrzych. Some of them, especially the young people, continued to speak French among themselves.

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Nowa Huta (N50-05, E20-04) had about 30,000 to 40,000 inhabitants in 1954. By 1960, it would have over 100,000 inhabitants.

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Poland's statistics before the outbreak of World War II, and to the best of his knowledge Warsaw was first and was followed by Stalinogrod (Katowice) then Krakow.

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it was unbelievable that Bydgoszcz had a greater density of population than Krakow. Olsztyn had the lowest density of population of all due to several lakes and heavily wooded areas in the voivodship.

although a violent change in population and geographical boundaries had occurred in Poland during World War II and the immediate post-war period, the individual voivodships did not basically change their relative statistical standing after World War II. could not give any absolute, specific figures on the density of population per voivodships,

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the city of Warsaw and the voivodships in descending order of density of population per square kilometer, on knowledge of voivodship statistics of 1954. list was as follows, in decreasing order of density:

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City of Warsaw (Usually reported independently of voivodships)

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Voivodship of Stalinogrod (Katowice)

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Voivodship of Krakow

Voivodship of Rzeszow

Voivodship of Kielce

Voivodship of Poznan

Voivodship of Lodz (with the city of Lodz)

Voivodship of Opole

Voivodship of Warsaw

Voivodship of Gdansk (Danzig)

Voivodship of Bydgoszcz

Voivodship of Wroclaw

Voivodship of Lublin

Voivodship of Bialystok

Voivodship of Szczecin

Voivodship of Koszalin

Voivodship of Olsztyn

Voivodship of Zielona Gora

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anywhere from 31.0 to 32.0. [] this assumption was that improved housing conditions coupled with increased employment and higher wages tended to increase the birth rate.

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[] deciding sociological or economic factors which would be responsible for the slight decline in the [] statistic for 1949 as compared to that of 1948. [] the statistics for 1949 should have been either the same or higher than for 1948.

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[] the mortality rate of approximately 11.4 per thousand in 1953 as compared to 18 per thousand in 1938 showed a decline of about 35 percent, whereas the average life expectancy of 58.6 in 1953 showed an increase of about 18 percent as compared with 49.7 in 1932. In this instance [] there should have been a closer correlation between the statistics on mortality and average life expectancy. [] there should have been a decrease of about 20 percent instead of 35 percent in the over-all mortality rate which would then have generally agreed with the average life expectancy statistics increase of about 18 percent.

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[redacted] the mortality rate year of 1938 and that of the average life expectancy rate year of 1932. [redacted] in theory the life expectancy statistics for the year of 1932 could be presumed to be about the same for 1938 in that there had been no radical medical discoveries or plagues in the six-year interval.

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[redacted] there was a decrease of about 20 to 25 percent in the over-all general mortality rate by 1953 if compared to the mortality statistics of 1938. [redacted] the average life expectancy during 1953 was actually about 55.

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[redacted] the sharp decline in mortality as shown by comparative percentages in the above Polish statistics may have been a tabulation of statistics indicating mortality only from one particular disease (sic), possibly tuberculosis or pneumonia. During 1952-53, [redacted] there was a sharp decline in mortality rates as a result of these diseases due to the availability of penicillin and "rimifon" (Polish term for an unknown medication).

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[redacted] the mortality rates by age groups, as listed above, appeared to be orderly and could be accepted as plausible despite the fact that the specific year from which it was taken was not given.

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[redacted] it was common knowledge that Polish infant mortality rates were always high, that mortality rates for age groups from 6 to 40 were proportionately low; and that rates increased rapidly in age groups over 40.

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[redacted] the above table of mortality rates by age groups was not necessarily the actual national mortality statistics by age groups. It could easily be a table of some small, special group of people due to the relative changes of the statistical data.

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[redacted] given infant mortality rates for 1953 in the stated cities or districts in the question appeared to be undoubtedly true. These cities or districts were densely populated and heavily industrialized. Silesia was considered to be dirty and smoky. Bytom constantly had a low ceiling of smog, which even the sun could

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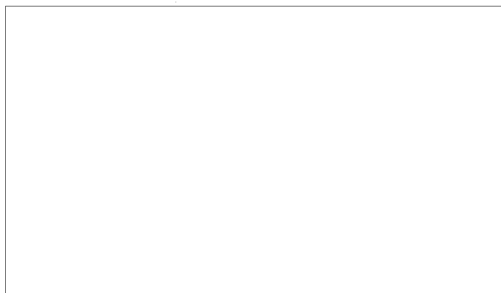


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not penetrate; and Lodz was considered to be the second largest industrialized area in Poland. Living conditions in these three areas were considered to be highly conducive to poor health and effected infants particularly.



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